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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/665,767	09/20/2000	James Claude Carnahan	RD-27,100	8695

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EXAMINER

CYGAN, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2856

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/665,767

Applicant(s)

CARNAHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cygan

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 08 February 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3, 9-29, 31-33, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miroslav (US 6,296,771 B1) in view of Nielsen (US 6,175,409 B1); the former document being a continuation-in-part of the latter document. Miroslav discloses the claimed invention, an analysis system and method for polymer weight determination which comprises injecting a known amount of sample into an analysis system containing a GPC (size-exclusive; see column 1, lines 48-49; column 14, lines 52-64; column 18, lines 47-48) column, a concentration detector and a molar mass detector (such as a differential refractive index detector and a light scattering detector, see column 20, lines 26-39); wherein a high molecular weight fraction is separated with minimal dispersion and analyzed. See entire document. Miroslav does not disclose the total analysis time. Nielsen discloses the total analysis time for the above-disclosed system (showing minimal dispersion; see Figure 8) and method to be "not more than 1 second per sample" for determining average molecular weight if

desired; see column 23 through column 24; see also columns 40-41.

Since Miroslav is directed toward the same system and method of Nielsen, it would have been obvious to use the time structure of Nielsen in the invention of Miroslav to achieve the speed of analysis as disclosed by Nielsen.

With respect to claim 3, the examiner takes Official Notice of the use of different synthesis techniques of polyester as being well known in the analysis art, and the use of polyester synthesized by any known technique in the invention of Miroslav in view of Nielsen would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made since Miroslav discloses the use of polymers in polymerization product mixtures.

With respect to claim 20, Miroslav discloses a dynamic light scattering detector, and Nielsen discloses that multiple angles can be used for light scattering measurements, see Figure 8.

With respect to claim 21, Nielsen discloses sequential analysis using detectors [130,132]; see column 38 and Figure 6.

With respect to claims 22, and 33, while Miroslav and Nielsen disclose online techniques, the examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of offline and online techniques in the analysis art, and the use of either of these techniques would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

2. Claims 4-8, 30, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miroslav in view of Neilsen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fyvie (US 5,214,183). Miroslav in view of Neilsen teaches the claimed invention except for application to aromatic polycarbonates. Fyvie discloses a method of determining the average molecular weight of aromatic polycarbonates (from 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane among other starting compounds, and dissolved in a suitable solvent such as benzene) using GPC. See columns 2 and 3, especially column 3, line 36; see also column 5, lines 10-22; column 8, lines 34-38. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use polycarbonates in the system and method of Miroslav in view of Neilsen, since Fyvie discloses that aromatic polycarbonates are suitable samples for GPC molecular weight analysis, and that such analysis is beneficial in characterizing an aromatic polycarbonate.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 08 February 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. While the declaration under CFR 131 states that the invention was invented "prior to April 2, 1999", the effective 102(e) date of the references is the date of the filing of the provisional application, April 3, 1998. See MPEP 901.04. Therefore, the references remain available as prior art and the rejections stand.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is 703-305-0846. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 703-305-4705. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-

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308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

mtc

mtc
March 4, 2002


HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800